Agricultural Labourers

†980. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Government regarding number of those agricultural labourers in the country who are victims of poverty and starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of wages being provided to these labourers;

(d) whether the low wages in this factor are affecting the agricultural production;

(e) if so, whether Government are contemplating to formulate a comprehensive legislation to protect the labourers working in the agricultural sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Government has made assessment of incidence of poverty for the population as a whole. According to the NSSO survey (1999-2000), about 26% of the population is living Below Poverty Line. Rural economic being agricultural based, a large number of agricultral labourers live below the poverty line. However, no estimate of poverty among agricultural workers separately is available.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. According to the Act, the appropriate Governments review/revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions at an interval not exceeding five years. In certain cases minimum wages include variable dearness allowance (VDA), which is reviewed/revised periodically twice a year effective April and October. A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages for agricultlral workers by different Governments both in State and Central spheres is at Statement. (See below). The wages of agricultural workers do not directly

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

affect the agriculture production as such as other factors like climatic conditions, farming practices, etc. play a crucial role in agriclture production.

(e) and (f) A proposal of enactment of a comprehensive legislation of the agricultural workers had been under consideration of the Government. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the State Governments, the proposal could not be processed further.

Statement

Daily Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers fixed by different States/Union Territory Administrations Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

S. No.	Appropriate Governments	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day)
(1)	(2)	(3)
	Central Sphere	102.78 to 114.78
	States/UTs	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.00 to 84.00 (as per zone)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00 (Area-I) 57.00 (Area-II)
3.	Assam	69.00
4.	Bihar	66.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	52.87
6.	Goa	94.00
7.	Gujarat	50.00
8.	Haryana	84.29 with meal 88.29 without meal
9.	Himachal Pradesh	65.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	66.00
11.	Karnataka	56.48
12.	Kerala	72.00 for light work 125.00 for hard work
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56.96
14.	Maharashtra	Zone-I 51.00 Zone-II 49.00 Zone-III 47.00 Zone-IV 45.00
15.	Manipur	72.40
16.	Meghalaya	70.00
17.	Mizoram	91.00

(1)	(2)	(3)
18.	Nagaland	66.00
19.	Orissa	52.50
20.	Punjab	90.58
21.	Rajasthan	73.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	70.00-80.00
23.	Tripura	50.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58.00
25.	Uttaranchal	73.00
26.	West Bengal	62 with meal 65 without meal
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	100.00 (Andaman) 107 (Nicobar)
28.	Chandigarh	114.00
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	89.00
30.	Delhi	125.80
31.	Pondicherry	
	Karaikal	45.00 for 5 Hours (Women) 54.00 for 6 Hours (Men)
	Yanam Region	55.00 to 75.00 for 6 Hours

Provision of Jobs in North-Eastern Region

981. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons in the country particularly in the North Eastern Region State-wise/district-wise;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for providing jobs to these unemployed educated youths in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) State-wise details of the number of educated jobseekers (10th Standard & above), all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country as on 31st December 2003 (latest) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities were to come from the normal growth of the economy assuming